

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 161128Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7185
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR IN
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION FAS/USDA WASHDC JUL 16 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

TOFAS 128

FROM AGATT FOR GRAIN AND FEED DIV. FAS, AND PARKER, ERS.

SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: FASTO 134

1. MONSOON ACTIVITY IMPROVED SINCE JULY 7 OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY EXCEPT JAMMU AND KASHMIR WHERE IT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS. ARRIVAL IN NORTH, NORTHWESTERN, AND CENTRAL INDIA DURING THIS WEEK WAS CHARACTERIZED BY WIDESPREAD AND HEAVY RAINS IN HARYANA INCLUDING DELHI, HIMACHAL PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, AND MADHYA PRADESH.

2. AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING WEEK ENDING JULY 14 WERE: ASSAM AND THE ADJOINING STATES, WEST BENGAL, SOUTH BIHAR, HARYANA, HIMACHAL PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, EAST GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA (EXCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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SOUTHEASTERN PARTS), ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, AND COASTAL

KARNATAKA. RAINFALL OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO SCANTY RANGING FROM 22 PERCENT IN SOUTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA TO 85 PERCENT IN WESTERN GUJARAT (BELOW NORMAL.

3. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO JULY 14, 1976 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE IN ASSAM AND THE ADJOINING STATES, NORTH BENGAL, HARYANA, PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, WEST MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, COASTAL AND CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA, ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, AND NORTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA. RAINFALL OVER BALANCE OF THE COUNTRY WAS BELOW NORMAL RANGING FROM 21 PERCENT IN SOUTHERN BIHAR TO 73 PERCENT IN KERALA. WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71. DURING THE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1975, AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR 75 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION.

4. FLOODING IS A RECURRING PHENOMENON, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH-EASTERN STATES. PARTS OF ASSAM STILL ARE UNDER FLOOD WATERS AS SITUATION REMAINED UNCHANGED DURING PAST WEEK.

5. REVIVAL AND EXTENSION OF MONSOON ACTIVITY HAS IMPROVED PROSPECTS OF THE 1976-77 KHARIF CROPS AND RELIEVED MUCH ANXIETY. HOWEVER, SOME CONCERN STILL EXISTS OVER DEFICIENT PRECIPITATION IN KERALA, ORISSA, UTTAR PRADESH, AND BIHAR. OFFICIAL CIRCLES HOPE THAT WITH STRENGTHENING OF MONSOON ACTIVITY, PRICE RISES OF SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES WILL BE CHECKED.

6. A SPOKESMAN OF THE INDIAN WEATHERBUREAU PREDICTS THE CURRENT INCREASED SPELL OF MONSOON ACTIVITY IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR THREE DAYS ELIMINATING THE DEFICIENCY IN RAINFALL OVER ORISSA, UTTAR PRADESH, AND BIHAR. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT PROSPECTS FOR RAINS OVER KERALA ARE NOT VERY PROMISING AS THE PEAK RAINFALL SEASON IN THIS STATE IS ABOUT OVER.

7. RENEWED MONSOON ACTIVITY OVER MUCH OF THE COUNTRY HAS IMPROVED THE KHARIF CROP OUTLOOK. HOWEVER, THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT MONSOON RAINS ARE SUSTAINED, TIMELY, AND WIDESPREAD FOR REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

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